

Vermont State Board of Education Monthly Report –March 2008

From the Chair

March 10 Special Meeting – Board members met via conference call on March 10 to discuss the proposed legislation that would to elevate the Department of Education to an Agency overseen by a Secretary appointed by the Governor and eliminate the State Board of Education. The Board's position statement follows:

“The sitting State Board of Education is opposed to the proposal. Among the reasons for the Board's opposition are the following:

- The proposal does not define the problem(s) expected to be solved by this change.
- The proposal does not identify any anticipated effects on student outcomes.
- The proposal does not identify how this will affect/improve the cost of education.
- We believe the education of students would more often be exposed to the influences of changes of leadership by this proposal, and this would be counterproductive to effective student education.
- The current structure under which an independent Board and Commissioner are free to consider broad policy and initiatives has served Vermont well. Education budget and policy decisions are currently made at the local level by duly elected School Boards who are accountable to their voters.
- We believe the passage of this proposal could seriously jeopardize the momentum of the current *Transformation of Education in Vermont* initiative.”

March 18, 2008 State Board of Education Meeting

Board's Desired State Public Engagement

Process: Legislators - Board members met during the afternoon of Tuesday, March 18th, with approximately 10 representatives

from Vermont education associations in its last discussion session relative to the initial stage in its public engagement process regarding the future of education in Vermont. These discussions followed the October release of *The Future of Education in Vermont*, a ***transformation document**, adopted in October 2007 by the State Board of Education.

**The transformation document has served as the genesis for conversation with statewide constituent groups on the topic. In addition, the Commissioner is holding regional conversations with students and principals. To view the transformation document, go to http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/board/future_of_education/future_of_education.pdf.*

Summaries from discussions held during the October- February Board meetings can be seen at <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainboard.html>.

In addition, Commissioner Cate held similar discussions with students from six schools during February and March.

Missisquoi Valley Union High School –

The Board voted to validate the February 28, 2008 Commissioner's agreement with MVU for the purpose of improving student outcomes at MVU and as an alternative to the Commissioner recommending to the State Board of Education the assumption of administrative control of the school (pursuant to 16 V.S.A. §164).

From the Board

Brian Vachon reported on his attendance at the March 14-15 National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Middle Level Study group.

From the Department

Bus Idling Rules (Rule 6100) – The State Board of Education rule for Series 6000 (School Buildings and Sites) has been updated to include the new rules required by 23 V.S.A. §1281(f) for School Bud Idling. The bus idling rules are 6001 – 6005 and **take effect May 1, 2008**. See: http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm/construction/rule_6000_effective_050108.pdf.

Annual State Application Under Part B of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act as Amended in 2004 for Federal Fiscal Year 2008

– Each year the Department of Education submits an application for the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) administration and discretionary grants. The Office of Special Education Programs requires

the application be posted for a 60 day comment period before submission. The application contains policy assurance and proposed use of funds.

Public Comment Period: 03/14/08 – 05/14/08

Comments may be submitted by:

Email: karin.edwards@state.vt.us

Postal Mail: Karin Edwards, Director, Student Support/Safe & Healthy Schools, Vermont Department of Education, 120 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

Questions: Contact Karin Edwards at (802) 828-5118 or karin.edwards@state.vt.us.

To view the proposed application, go to: http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm/sped/idea_application_proposal_FFY08_review.pdf.

NECAP Science Test Administration

Workshops - In preparation for the May 12-30 NECAP Science Assessment window of testing, NECAP Science test administration workshops will be offered at five locations throughout the state from April 28 through May 2. Test administration policies and procedures for grades 4, 8 and 11 will be covered in the 2-1/2 hour sessions. Session will feature presentations by the Vermont Department of Education on the background of NECAP Science, the relationship of the science assessment to the New England Common Assessment Program Science Assessment targets, and the commitment to make the assessment accessible to as many students as possible. In addition, staff from Measured Progress (the testing contractor) will present detailed information about the administration of the NECAP Science Test. It is critical that each school's principal or test coordinator, but no more than two per school, register to attend the sessions that apply to their specific school. Workshop sites follow:

April 28, 2008 1:00 PM	Comfort Inn & Suites, St. Johnsbury
April 29, 2008 9:00 AM	Capitol Plaza Montpelier, VT
April 30, 2008 9:00 AM	Holiday Inn – Burlington South Burlington, VT
May 1, 2008 9:00 AM	Holiday Inn – Rutland Rutland, VT
May 2, 2008 9:00 AM	Mount Snow Grand Resort Hotel, West Dover, VT

Registration for these workshops is on-line at: <http://iRegister.measuredprogress.org/> - click on New England Common Assessment Program. If you have any questions please contact Mary Ann Minardo at (802) 828-5410 or maryann.minardo@state.vt.us.

Vermont's Approved Supplemental Service Providers

- The No Child Left Behind Act requires Title I schools that have not made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for three or more years to offer additional services, such as tutoring outside the regular school day, to eligible students. This document lists the providers who have been approved by the Commissioner to deliver these services. The list is reviewed and updated annually. To view the 2008-09 application information, see http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/laws/nclba/supp_providers_app_09.pdf. Applications for 2008-09 are due 05/01/08.

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For more information on the Vermont State Board of Education, visit:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainboard.html>.

To view approved minutes of SBE meetings:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#approved>

To view the State Board of Education's Monthly Reports:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#monthly-reports>

